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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows.

ABSTRACT

Novel roof bolt bearing plate and method are disclosed for use in underground mining operations. A novel dome-shaped roof bolt bearing plate and method support the roof in a mine. The novel bearing plate is round or elliptical and characterized and distinguished by important safety integrity features ~~different from conventional commercial roof support devices~~. No dangerous edges and corners protrude downward. A novel recessed center is lower than the outer rim. A thin outer rim conforms to roof irregularities. The novel roof bolt bearing plate and method ~~have been found to provide important advantages over conventional commercial roof support devices, including (1) concealing the head of the roof bolt to a preferred degree, (2) conforming to the roof's irregularities which will cause~~ causing the plate to remain tight, ~~(3) provide readability so the installer can to~~ determine the quality and integrity of installation and anchorage, and ~~(4) compressing the lower strata of the mine roof, thereby and~~ creating a beam like support for the upper layers of the mine roof.